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ABSTRACT

In response to the increasing emphasis on issues of diversity, this document addresses the need for bibliographic instruction in classes dealing with issues of gender and sexuality. The document consists of various bibliographies, guides to research, information headlines and services, library special collections and research institutes, electronic discussion groups, and other sources of information concerning the general topic of homosexuality. The document is broken into the following sections: (1) Introduction; (2) Researching Sensitive Topics in the Library; (3) Intellectual Freedom and Academic Freedom in the Library; (4) Defusing Controversies Regarding Homosexuality on Campus; (5) Top-Down Acceptance of Homosexuality on Campus; (6) Research Guides and Bibliographies on Homosexuality; (7) Professional Literature Regarding Homosexuality and Libraries; (8) National Information and Referral Services; (9) Special Collections, Libraries and Research Institutes; (10) Electronic Discussion Groups and Forums; (11) Maneuvering around Library of Congress Headings and Numbering; and (12) Satiating Your Appetite for Further Involvement. (HB)

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HELPING STUDENTS FIND SENSITIVE MATERIALS:

A Guide to the Literature on Homosexuality for Librarians and Faculty

by

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INTRODUCTION:

One reason why growing numbers of people are looking at aspects of sexuality, is that the expanding consciousness of "issue diversity" also encompasses all of the aspects of gender and sexuality. Another reason for an increasing demand for homosexuality as the subject of research papers is to fill a void which people are no longer tolerating. Gay Pride Parades are being held in hundreds of cities around the world, gay community groups and gay newspapers are starting to come out of the closet and gain recognition by the "mainstream media", and college campuses are seeing increased numbers of groups forming for gay students, gay faculty and gay alumni.

People are not only standing up to be recognized, they are also looking for library resources that were previously kept out of their reach. Librarians in general, and especially Bibliographic Instructors have the opportunity to not only demonstrate the use of appropriate sources of information, but you also have the opportunity to shatter myths and stereotypes which otherwise inhibit the transmission of information.

With the increasing emphasis on issues of diversity, the need and opportunity for bibliographic instruction in classes dealing with issues of gender and sexuality must be addressed. In one year, I received calls for assistance from faculty members on my own campus on various aspects of Gender and Sexuality, not because they knew me as a librarian, but because I am actively involved in the Speakers Bureau of a regional advocacy group. The callers were seeking out an officer of the organization, not realizing that they also need the help of a librarian.

I saw the invitation to speak before these classes as an opportunity for me to provide bibliographic instruction, and to show them that the library was definitely not an anachronistic institution, nor would librarians be flustered when asked to locate materials about homosexuality.

However, few librarians have been volunteering their time to serve as a public speakers on topics of sex education. Similarly, few librarians are prepared to teach in a potentially hostile environment, or to focus on subjects which are socially taboo. Students are frequently prejudiced about the subject matter, snicker and use derogatory epithets during classroom discussion, adding further challenges to the usual difficulties of a one hour library session. These types of hostile reactions occur to varying degrees in classrooms of all types, from high school, to community college, and even at the graduate level.

Because I am both a member of an advocacy group, and of the Carlson Library's Bibliographic Instruction Department (with the resources at my fingertips), I was able to develop a series of library instruction presentations.

This package is intended to be used to help "teach-the-teacher", as well as providing a "starter's guide" to research, and also as a sampler of additional resources in the field.

RESEARCHING SENSITIVE TOPICS IN THE LIBRARY:

The first thing you need to do is build an understanding of the general problems encountered when working with "sensitive topics". These could include political, religious, historical, ethical or scientific aspects of research topics. But you also need to know about insidious barriers which exist in all types of libraries, before you can begin to help fellow librarians and patrons to overcome these subject specific roadblocks.

Here is a list of sources for background reading:

The Problems Of Researching Sensitive Topics: An Overview And Introduction.
Lee, Raymond M.; Renzetti, Claire M.
American Behavioral Scientist, v33 n5 p510-28 May-Jun 1990.

Stand Up For Better Cataloging
Berman, Sanford
Emergency Librarian, v16, p21-25 Nov-Dec 1988.

Origins And Attitudes: Training Reference Librarians For A Pluralistic World.
Janes, Phoebe; Meltzer, Ellen
Reference Librarian, n30 p145-155 1990.

Campaigning Against Invisibility.
Bryant, Eric
Library Journal, v117 n1 p62 January 1992.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN THE LIBRARY:

Another aspect of your advance preparation should focus on issues of intellectual freedom and academic freedom, before you focus on the subject matter of sexuality and gender.

Students and faculty should be aware of the "librarian's code of ethics", striving to provide equal services to all users, regardless of the nature of the topic being researched. Patrons should not worry about embarrassing themselves or the librarian, based on the topics which they are attempting to research. Similarly, librarians need to assure patrons of the confidentiality involved with each patron and their research topics. And librarians must uphold that confidentiality!

The Ethics Of Reference Service For The Public Librarian.
Golden, Fay Ann
Reference Librarian, n30 p157-166 1990.

Battling Over Books: Freedom And Responsibility Are Tested And A Trustee's Statement On Intellectual Freedom.
Tabbert, Barbara
Emergency Librarian, v16 n1 p9-13 Sep-Oct 1988.

Viewpoint: The Right to Access Information In An Information Age.
Allen, Kenneth B.
Information Management Review, v3 n3 p57-64 Win 1988.

Censorship: A Lengthy History, A Continuing Battle And Resource List Of Censorship-Related Materials.
ED292473 8p. 1987 American Society of Journalists and Authors.

Institutional Openness And Individual Faculty Academic Freedom.
Glicksman, Maurice
Academe, v72 n5 p16-18 Sep-Oct 1986.

DEFUSING CONTROVERSIES REGARDING HOMOSEXUALITY ON CAMPUS:

Now you are prepared to start addressing the controversies which surface with regards to the study of homosexuality. Academicians have asked if it is a valid field for academic inquiry. Some people express concern that literature on the subject is inherently geared to "recruitment" of homosexuals, while other nay sayers feel that no library or college should ever have any materials on such an "abominable" subject.

You as a librarian need to have some background on these controversial aspects, so that you can readily defuse these issues, if they ever arise in your library.

Cooling Hot Topics.
Goodman, Marcia Renee
ED331803 37p. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (Chicago, IL, April 3-7, 1991).

Censors In Our Midst.
Follett, Richard J.
College English, v43 n7 p690-693 Nov 1981.

Homosexuality And Education: A Review Of The Issue.
Newton, David E.; Risch, Stephen J.
High School Journal, v64 n5 p191-202 Feb 1981.

Teaching The Literature Of Lesbian And Gay Experience: An Assimilationist View.
Puccio, Paul M.
ED320164 12p. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English (79th, Baltimore, MD, November 17-22, 1989).

Discussing Sex In The Classroom: Readings For Teachers.
Stronck, David R., Comp.
National Science Teachers Association, Washington, D.C.
ED243681 98p. 1982

Helping Students Understand And Accept Sexual Diversity.
Sears, James T.
Educational Leadership, v49 n1 p54-56 Sep 1991.

TOP-DOWN ACCEPTANCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY ON CAMPUS:

In order to incorporate this subject specific bibliographic instruction on your campus, you need to understand how sexuality fits in with the "master plan", in terms of your institution's approach to Affirmative Action, Non-Discrimination, Equal Opportunity and Multicultural Diversity.

But unlike the Boolean logic which drives most of our computers, a person's sexuality is not a finite binary condition. Most societal institutions, including higher education, have systemically ignored the variations of sexuality which exist along a very wide continuum, which is part of the diversity of life.

Students And Educators: Attitudes On Gay And Lesbian Matters.
Geller, William W.
ED330914 19p. 1990

In Every Classroom: The Report Of The President's Select Committee For Lesbian And Gay Concerns.
Nieberding, Ronald A., Ed.
ED332085 107p. 1989 Rutgers, The State Univ., New Brunswick, NJ. Office of Student Life Policy

The Campus Environment For Gay And Lesbian Life.
D'Emilio, John
Academe, v76 n1 p16-19 Jan-Feb 1990.

Working With Gay And Lesbian Students.
Scott, Dick
Association of College Unions-International, Bloomington, IN.
ACU-I Bulletin, v56 n2 p22-25 Mar 1988
ED297622 5p. 1988

The College, The Constitution, And The Consumer Student: Implications For Policy And Practice. ASHE-ERIC Higher Education Report No. 7, 1986.
Hendrickson, Robert M.; Gibbs, Annette
ED280429 108p. 1986 Association for the Study of Higher Education.

Educational Responsibilities To The Gay And Lesbian Student.
DeVito, Joseph A.
ED184167 25p. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Speech Communication Association (65th, San Antonio, TX, November 10-13, 1979).

The Rhetoric Of Opposing Constructions Of Reality: Gay Rights In St. Paul.
Palmerton, Patricia R.
ED215375 22p. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Central States Speech Association (Milwaukee, WI, April 15-17, 1982).

RESEARCH GUIDES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON HOMOSEXUALITY:

As a librarian, you need to be familiar with the basic reference tools which are key starting points for inquiry into the field of homosexuality.

Encyclopedia of Homosexuality.
Dynes, Wayne R., Ed.
New York : Garland Pub., 1990. 1484p. 2 vols.

The Homosexual And Society: An Annotated Bibliography.
Ridinger, Robert B. Marks
New York : Greenwood Press, 1990. 444p.

An Annotated Bibliography Of Homosexuality.
Bullough, Vern L.
New York : Garland Pub., 1976. 2 vols.

Lesbianism: An Annotated Bibliography And Guide To The Literature, 1976-1986.
Maggiore, Dolores J.
Metuchen, NJ : Scarecrow Press, 1988. 150p.

Uranian Worlds: A Reader's Guide To Alternative Sexuality In Science Fiction And Fantasy.
Gerber, Eric; Lyn, Paleo
Boston : G. K. Hall, 1983. 177p, (2nd ed 1990. 286p.)

The Male Homosexual In Literature : A Bibliography.
Young, Ian
Metuchen, NJ : Scarecrow Press, 1975. 282p, (2nd ed 1982. 350p.)

Gay And Lesbian Studies. A Research Guide For The UCLA Libraries.
Walker, Walt Cat
ED328271 145p. 1990

Alternative Materials In Libraries: A Handbook.
Shore, Elliott, Ed.; Danky, James, Ed.
Temple Univ., Philadelphia, Pa. Univ. Libraries.
ED234812 103p. 1979

PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE REGARDING HOMOSEXUALITY AND LIBRARIES:

How do you raise the attention of your fellow librarians, that they may need to do some waking up, with respect to providing a better response to requests for gay and lesbian research? Like the public at large, there are numerous reasons why librarians need to educate themselves to overcome potential forms of prejudice or discrimination.

Services To Gay And Lesbian Patrons: Examining The Myths.
Gough, Cal; Greenblatt, Ellen
Library Journal, v117 n1 p59-63 Jan 1992.

Opening Up The Classroom Closet: Responding to Educational Needs of Gay and Lesbian Youth.
Rofes, Eric
Harvard Educational Review, v59 n4 p444-453 Nov 1989.

Library Services For Lesbians And Gays.
Riddell, Gordon
Library Association Record, v90 p84+ Feb 1988.

Breaking The Silence Barrier: Libraries And Gay And Lesbian Students.
Monroe, Judith
Collection Building, v9 n1, p43-46 1988.

Problems Of Access To Lesbian Literature.
Raaflaub, Yvonne
RQ, v31 n1 p19-23 Fall 1991.

NATIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES:

When people are looking for a telephone hotline, emotional support, self-help materials or legal assistance, you need to know if there are any regional or national organizations that can provide the type of quick help that people are often seeking.

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Of New York
(all volunteer, with nationwide referrals to local organizations)
208 West 13th Street / New York NY 10011
#212-777-1800

Gay & Lesbian Task Force Of The American Library Association
(serving as a clearinghouse for librarians)
50 East Huron Street / Chicago IL 60610
#800-545-2433

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation-New York Chapter
(with additional chapters in other cities)
80 Varick Street / Suite 3E / New York NY 10013
#212-966-1700

Federation Of Parents And Friends Of Lesbians & Gays
(PFLAG has regional chapters around the world providing social support)
Post Office Box 27605 / Washington DC 20009
#202-638-4200

Lambda Legal Defense And Education Fund
(serving as a legal clearinghouse and providing legal assistance)
666 Broadway / New York NY 10012
#212-995-8585

National Gay And Lesbian Task Force
(serving as a clearinghouse for political and civil matters)
1517 U Street, NW / Washington DC 20009
#202-332-6483

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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, LIBRARIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES:

When your library cannot fulfill the needs of a researcher, you should know where to refer a patron. Here is a sampling of some regional and national resources which have very specialized collections and archival materials that may be helpful for extensive research projects. Please contact each institution to determine their hours of operation, and what restrictions, if any, there may be on the use of these special collections.

Gerber Hart Library *(all volunteer staff)*
3352 North Paulina Street / Chicago IL 60657
#312-883-3003

Goodstein Collection - Manuscripts and Archive Department
101 Olin Library / Cornell University / Ithaca NY 14853
#607-255-3530

Labadie Collection - Special Collections Department
711 Hatcher Graduate Library / Univ of Michigan / Ann Arbor MI 48109
#313-764-9377

Kinsey Institute For Research In Sex, Gender And Reproduction
Morrison Hall / Indiana University / Bloomington IN 47405
#812-855-7686

Hetrick-Martin Institute
401 West Street / 2nd Floor / New York NY 10014
#212-633-8920

Sex Information And Education Council Of The U.S. (SIECUS)
130 West 42nd Street / Suite 2500 / New York NY 10036
#212-819-9770

ELECTRONIC DISCUSSION GROUPS AND FORUMS:

For those folks with an electronic bent towards information access, informal networking, and special interest groups, there are growing numbers of electronic resources which may be of help. All of these are open forums where anyone can post a query, and anyone can provide either a public or private response.

You will need to have access to BITNET or INTERNET to use these worldwide electronic forums:

BISEXU-L **Bisexu***ality discussion/mailing list.* Send your subscription request to: **LISTSERV at BROWNVM** (Bitnet)

GAY-LIBN *Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Librarians' discussion/mailing list.* Send your subscription request to: **LISTSERV at USCVM** (Bitnet)

GAYNET *Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual discussion/mailing list.* Send your subscription request to: **GAYNETR at GALLIFRY.KENT.EDU** (Internet)

QN **Q**ueer **N**ation *discussion/mailing list.* Send your subscription request to: **QN-APPROVAL at QUEERNET.ORG** (Internet)

SAPPHO *Lesbian and Bisexual women discussion/mailing list.* Send your subscription request to: **SAPPHO-REQUEST at MC.LCS.MIT.EDU** (Internet)

SOC.MOTSS **M**embers **O**f **T**he **S**ame **S**ex *discussion group.* Available only if your computer receives the **"SOC"** family of newsgroups (UUnet/Usenet Newsfeed).

OH-MOTSS *Ohio's version of SOC.MOTSS.* Send your subscription request to: **OH-MOTSS-REQUEST at CPS.UDAYTON.EDU** (Internet)

TRANSGEN **Transgen***der, Transexual, Transvestite discussion/mailing list.* Send your subscription request to: **LISTSERV at BROWNVM** (Bitnet)

MANEUVERING AROUND LIBRARY OF CONGRESS HEADINGS AND NUMBERING:

What happens when no one is staffing the Reference Desk, but your students are looking for assistance?

Here are some suggestions for items to include in a "cheat sheet", listing some of the short cuts for locating materials despite the drawbacks of the Library of Congress Subject Headings.

You can also incorporate these two listings into handouts that you can give to classes when everyone is researching a different aspect of sexuality or gender.

I also use these listings to demonstrate the peculiar and insidious problems which arise when people rely exclusively on LCSH and LC call numbers for researching a narrow angle in almost any field of study.

FIRST you can scan the shelves, based on the following Call Numbers:

L.C. Call Numbers and Quick *(unofficial)* Descriptions:

BF 1729.H66	Astrology and Homosexuality
GV 722.5.G36	Gay olympics
HQ 74	Bisexuality
HQ 75 to 76	Homosexuality, Lesbians, Gays
HQ 777.8	Children of homosexual parents
HV 1449	Social assistance for Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays
HV 5139	Alcoholism and Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays
HV 6250	Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays who are victims of crimes
HV 6545.4	Suicide and Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays
KF 638	Legal rights for unwed couples
KF 4754	Civil rights for Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays
N 72.H64	Art and Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays
QL 761	Homosexuality in animals
QP 278	Biological & medical aspects of sexual differentiation
RC 552	Homophobia, HIV phobia, AIDS phobia
RC 556 to 557	Sexual therapy (in general)
RC 558	Sexual therapy for Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays

SECONDLY you can scan the Subject Catalog or the Subject Index of a periodical index (such as the Alternative Press Index, "ERIC", the National Newspaper Index, Psychological Abstracts, the Social Sciences Index, or even the Reader's Guide) for your subject headings or keywords.

Official Library of Congress Subject Headings:

Abused lesbians
Afro-American gays
Afro-American lesbians
Aged lesbians
Astrology and homosexuality
Bisexuality
Bisexuality in marriage
Children of gay parents
Church work with gays
Gay bars
Gay couples
Gay games
Gay liberation movement
Gay male couples
Gay parents
Gay teenagers
Gays
Gays' writings
Homosexuality
Homosexuality and art
Homosexuality and employment
Homosexuality and literature
Homosexuality in animals
Homosexuality in literature
Homosexuality in motion pictures
Homosexuality in the Bible
Lesbian couples
Lesbian mothers
Lesbian nuns
Lesbian teachers
Lesbianism
Lesbianism in motion pictures
Lesbians
Lesbians' writings
Men--Sexual behavior
Sex and law
Sex counseling
Sex crimes
Sex customs
Sex differences in education
Sex instruction for gay men
Sex instruction for lesbians
Sex role
Sexual behavior
Sexual behavior in animals
Sexual fantasies
Sexuality
Social work with gays
Social work with lesbians
Sodomy
Trials (Sex crimes)
Trials (Sodomy)
United States--Armed Forces--Gays
Women--Sexual behavior

THEN WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, researchers should feel comfortable enough to leave a note asking for further assistance, so that a personal appointment with a librarian can be scheduled.

SATIATING YOUR APPETITE FOR FURTHER INVOLVEMENT:

Contact either the GAY & LESBIAN TASK FORCE of the American Library Association, or the SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE of the American Library Association. Both groups can be reached at ALA's headquarters in Chicago, by phoning #800-545-2433.

GLTF and SRRT each hold a variety of programs and events at the Annual Summer and Mid-Winter meetings of ALA. Some individual members also work on various special purpose committees and long range projects throughout the year. You need not be a dues paying ALA member in order to attend one of their programs, or to contribute your time and energy.